

**Takoma Park Committee on the Environment
Presentation to Council
January 22, 2008**

Topics to address tonight:

- 1) Climate Change
2000 Local Action Plan (*Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, <http://www.takomapark.info/library/reference/environment/greenhouse.pdf>)
Options for Future Action
- 2) Stormwater Programs for Private Property
- 3) Mercury Switch Removal Legislation
Council Support

Climate Change:

2000 Action Plan (*Local Action Plan for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*,
<http://www.takomapark.info/library/reference/environment/greenhouse.pdf>)

-Approved by Resolution, “accepting the work completed by the Takoma Park Climate Change Task Force, endorsing the goal of reducing Takoma Park’s greenhouse gas emissions to eighty percent of the 1990 levels by 2010, and expressing an intention to work toward implementing, ... the City intends to implement the Local Action Plan..., AND ... City staff are directed to seek funding to support implementation of the Action Measures proposed in the Local Action Plan.” (March, 2000)

-Goal: By 2010, reduce CO2 emissions to 80% of 1990 levels.

-Recommendations:

Municipal Government Sector

-Current / Existing Actions That Affect Energy Consumption

-Takoma Park Municipal Electric Utility (attempted w Task Force)

-Street Lighting (was legislative barrier, watching Kensington effort)

Commercial/Residential Sectors:

-Shared Energy Savings for Apartments, Commercial and Institutional Buildings (low key outreach, plan 3/11/08 public meeting)

-Solar Photovoltaics Program (applied for grants for schools and Comm. Ctr, received but did not use \$16 K for CC)

-Green Power Group Purchasing Program (legislative barrier)

-Public Information Dissemination (did not hire coordinator, COE did provide variety of articles in Newsletter, handouts at Arbor Day, etc.)

-Revolving Loan Fund Program (not done)

-Group Purchasing Program for Energy-Efficient Technologies (not done, still citizen interest)

-Efficiency Upgrades at Building Sale Transfer (not done)

Natural Resources Sector:

-Current Energy Savings Actions (continue to support tree ordinance/planting/Arbor Day, need to reinforce protection/planting efforts)

-Educate About Tree Selection, Planting, and Maintenance (ongoing, need more)

-Educate about Trees and Parking Lot Heat Islands (microclimate study, need more outreach)

-Plant Trees in Median Strips of New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard (not done)

-Build Bio-retention Areas and Plant Trees to Slow Storm Water (starting)

-Permeable Surfaces for Streets and Driveways in New Construction (not done)

-Larger Tree Boxes for New Plantings (?)

Waste Sector:

-Pay-As-You-Throw Trash Service (not done, politically difficult)

-Adopt and Enforce County Business Recycling Ordinance in City (not done)

-Expand Plastic Recycling Program (several attempts, some progress, market barriers)

Transportation Sector:

-Cleaner Municipal Fleet of Vehicles (some progress (?))

- Vehicles Scrappage Program (not done)
- Promote Alternative Modes of Transportation (?)
- Improve Transit Information (bus map published, WMATA starting)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities (new bike racks installed Old Town and CC)

Accomplishments:

- Signed Mayors' Agreement
- Sustainable Building Guidelines (passed in 1999, revised in 2001)
- Participate in ICLEI Maryland meetings and National conferences
- Microclimate weather study demonstrated reduced ambient temperatures due to trees, 1999
- Regular tree outreach (should continue and increase)
- Protective tree ordinance (still losing tree cover)
- Purchase of wooded lands for preservation (need invasives/trash removal)
- Energy efficiency in City buildings (30% reduction)
- Wind energy supplies 5% of government building electricity
- Three solar-powered park and path lighting systems
- 18% of vehicle fleet hybrid or alternative fueled
- Using 20% biodiesel in all City trucks and County fire trucks
- Support for Corn Stove Cooperative
- Comprehensive weekly curbside recycling program for households (includes all papers, bottles & cans and green (yard) waste)
- Drop-off for used motor oil, antifreeze, and compact fluorescent bulbs
- Annual Arbor Day event with hundreds of tree seedlings to citizens
- Composting leaves and producing mulch for pick up or delivery
- Installing rain gardens in City parks to improve water quality
- Annual rain barrel workshop for home use (3 workshops so far)
- Annual collection of used electronics
- Stormwater system utility fee (including tax-exempt)
- Annual cleaning and TV inspection of 1/3 of sewer system and maintenance and installation of new structures
- Working toward green roof on pebbled courtyard
- Watching Kensington progress on streetlight purchase
- Energy Star for Small Business and Congregations session, 3/11/08

Barriers:

- Resources
- Staff time
- Volunteer time
- Some legislative, organizational issues

New Proposed Actions

City Government

- 1) Conserve energy
- 2) Hire Climate Coordinator
- 3) Update Inventory

- 4) Hand out City Green Building Guidelines to every potential developer
- 5) Practice green building in new construction/renovations
- 6) Continue participation with ICLEI national and Maryland
- 7) Coordinate/cooperate with county climate change action efforts¹
- 8) Coordinate with/request assistance from State agencies and Governor's Climate Committee
- 9) Explore expansion of County green building requirements; discuss implementation with DPS
- 10) Electric Zenn cars (\$12,750-17,600) or Dynasty Electric cars (~\$20 K) for low speed applications
- 11) Follow up on Green Building Day
- 12) Facilitate Citizen and Business actions, City Green Building expert
- 13) Stop Manisization: Propose requirements, work with County
- 14) Climate tax to fund initiatives²
- 15) Promote green redevelopment of NH Ave. corridor
- 16) Stormwater management requirements
- 17) Conduct tree inventory on private property
- 18) Re-examine Municipal Energy Authority
 - Meet with Public Service Commission
 - Pursue municipal electric aggregation (opt out)
 - Energy audits/efficiency for citizens program
- 19) Reexamine various other recommendations in original Plan
- 20) Update Local Action Plan

Private Citizens

- 1) Mentoring, support groups (meetings, list serve)
- 2) Map of local green building features
- 3) Rainscapes program
- 4) Implement conservation measures, including weatherization
- 5) Learn about and buy energy efficient appliances
- 6) Sign up for green power/Clean Energy Rewards program

Businesses

- 1) Join Energy Star for Small Business and Congregations
- 2) Tour of local green building(s)
- 3) Implement cool roofs, solar
- 4) Energy conservation—weatherization and efficiency

¹ Both current and new proposals. New legislative proposals include: EPA energy star standards for new residential and commercial construction, home energy audits at the time of sale for residential properties, low carbon gasoline at retail stations County-wide (when available), increased fuel economy standards and use of biofuels for County vehicle fleet, elimination (or justification for use) of SUVs in the County fleet, development of a Renewable Energy Action Plan, including exploration of creating a Sustainable Energy Utility, property tax credits for solar and geothermal energy uses, inclusion of climate change as factor in drafting of County, Planning Board's master and sector plans, new Office of Ratepayer Advocate to advocate for the lowest energy rates consistent with environmental stewardship, conversion of the current energy tax into a carbon tax and joining an emissions "cap and trade" program.

² Green Building group idea.

- 5) COG recommendations re materials reuse
- 6) Hot water/HVAC installers learn about and promote more efficient equipment
- 7) Purchase green power

=> **Committee requests Team of Councilmembers to work on priorities/budget allocation/implementation**

Stormwater Programs for Private Property

- Rain Barrel Workshops
- Partner with Rainscapes
(<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.html>)
 - Technical assistance
 - Rain barrel workshops
 - Training for landscape contractors
 - County funds for homeowner grants/rebates for rain gardens (max. \$1,200/\$5,000), rain barrels (max. \$50 x 4), green roof (min. 350 sf or ¼ of area, max. \$1,200/\$5,000), permeable paver retrofit (min 150/450 sf, max. \$1,200/\$5,000), tree planting (max. \$200), conservation landscaping (min. 500/1,000 sf, max 25% up to \$500/\$5,000),
 - Targeted Neighborhood Approach: new this year, if neighbors agree, contractor is hired to implement stormwater retrofits for neighborhood
 - County funds are unavailable to municipalities

=> Does Council wish to pursue MOU, set City funds for grants and/or contracts? If so, how much and for what activities? Would Council like the Committee to make recommendations or work with County and City staff to draft an MOU?

- Stormwater Mapping
- Impervious Surfaces code

=> Does Council wish to have City pursue stormwater mapping? Does Council wish to pursue development of code to limit impervious surfaces? If so, what role would Council like the Committee to play?

Mercury Switch Removal Legislation

- Proposing legislation for third year
- Requires removal of mercury-containing switches from end-of-life vehicles
- Auto manufacturers required to pay \$5 bounty and \$1 administration per switch
- Voluntary program collected 0 switches in 2006 (0%), 860 switches in 2007 (4%)
- 2008 bills raise bounty and shorten timeframe for implementation

=> **Committee requests Council support, resolution, testimony**